Water Harvesting Programmes in Chhattisgarh

†153. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided for under ground-water recharge and water harvesting programmes in Chhattisgarh under the Central Regional Scheme;

(b) the number of proposals for the schemes received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh under the said programmes along with the costs thereof; and

(c) by when the proposals will be cleared and the amount provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Presently there is no approved scheme for financing ground water recharge and rain water harvesting proposals. However, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has conceived a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting during the remaining part of the X Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, provision of Rs. 5.00 crores has been proposed for feasible projects of the Chhattisgarh State.

(b) The Government of Chhattisgarh has submitted 4 project proposals at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.76 crores under the said scheme.

(c) The proposals received from Government of Chhattisgarh will be considered after approval of the scheme.

Economic Help to State Governments under NCPP

†154. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government provides economic help to State Governments under National Coastal Protection Project;

(b) if so, the details of economic help extended by the Central Government to the State Governments during the last three years; and

(c) the economic help the Central Government propose to extend to the State Governments under National Coastal Protection Project during the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sir. However, considering the severity of sea-erosion problems in certain reaches, Government of India has taken up a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for anti-sea erosion works in critical areas in March 2004 on pilot basis. Under the scheme, Central Government has provided following assistance to the State Governments in the form of grant as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	1.50
2004-05	2.00

The CSS is transferred to the State sector with effect from April 2005 with an allocation of Rs. 10.00 crore for the financial year 2005-06.

(c) Does not arise.

Inter-linking of rivers

155. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed before the Supreme Court not to go back on the inter-linking of rivers with an estimated cost of Rs. 5 lakh crores;

(b) whether the issue has been placed before the Cabinet in the month of September, 2004 for a comprehensive review;

(c) if so, what is the decision of the Cabinet in this regard; and

(d) what Action-Plan does Government have to complete the project as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) A presentation was made by Ministry of Water Resources on 'Inter-linking of Rivers' before Hon'ble Prime Minister on October 11, 2004. Union Minister (Finance), Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister (Water Resources), Member, Planning Commission and Principal Secretary to Prime Minister were also present. After the Presentation, a number of decisions were taken including to pursue the Inter-linking of Rivers with focus on Peninsular Component in a fully consultative manner and this fact has been brought to the notice of Hon'ble Supreme Court in October, 2004. The completion of the inter-linking schemes depend upon the early consensus between the concerned States.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.